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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,331

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Wen-Shi Huang

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01/24/2005

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EXAMINER

TAMAI, KARL I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,331

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL

Examiner

Tamai IE Karl

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/8/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, such as "A Combination Bearing Assembly Having Repulsive Magnetic Bearing Rings and a Sleeve Bearing".

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the magnets having attractive magnetic forces (claims 2, 16), the first and second magnets being axially aligned with opposite polar disposition (claim 7), the inner and outer rings having the opposite polar disposition (claims 10, 23), the opposite polar disposition generating repulsive magnetic forces (claim 12) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure

Art Unit: 2834

is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not support an repulsive magnetic bearing having axially aligned rings with opposite polar dispositions because opposite polar dispositions inherently attract each other, and identical polar dispositions inherently repel each other. For the purpose of advancing prosecution on the merits, the examiner will assume the magnets of claim 12 attract each other, and the magnets of claim 13 repel each other.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: Claims 1-23 lack any structure to accomplish the dissipation of heat.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11, 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishizuka (UK 2335242). Ishizuka teaches a bearing for a fan having attractive magnetic upper 3/lower 4 bearings symmetrically disposed at opposite ends of the shaft which provide axial and radial forces on the shaft and a ball bearing 5 connected to the shaft and base. The upper bearings 4 (also the first magnetic portion)

Art Unit: 2834

having inner and outer rings (figure 4) which are radially aligned and having the poles axially offset with the same polar disposition, and where the lower bearings(also the second magnetic portion) having first (3a), second (3b) and third rings (3aa)(figure 5). With regards to claims 19-22, the bearing of figure 5 includes both axially and radially aligned magnets providing first and second magnetic portions. Ishizuka teaches that any combination of the bearings is acceptable (page 13, last paragraph).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 2834

12. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (UK 2335242), in further view of Nakamura et al. (Nakamura)(JP 2000/078796). Ishizuka teaches every aspect of the invention except the upper and lower magnetic portions being symmetrical to the bearings. Nakamura teaches the magnetic bearings on opposite ends of the shaft and symmetrical to the bearings. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the fan motor of Ishizuka with the magnetic bearings symmetrical to the mechanical bearings to provide a motor of small size with a long life.

The examiner notes the references are equally combined with Nakamura being the primary reference teaching every aspect of the invention except the base being the base 1 of a heat dissipating fan, where Ishizuka teaches that combination bearings are used in fan motors.

13. Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (UK 2335242) and Nakamura et al. (Nakamura)(JP 2000/078796), in further view of Wyatt (US 4471331). Ishizuka and Nakamura teach every aspect of the invention except the first and second magnet rings are axially aligned with opposite polarities and the radially aligned magnets being of opposite polarity. Wyatt teaches the first 35 and second magnet 39 are axially aligned to provide a cumulative centering force with rotor magnet 34 to center the rotor. Wyatt teaches the polarities of the magnets can be attractive (fig. 2) or repulsive (fig. 3). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the fan motor of

Art Unit: 2834

Ishizuka and Nakamura with the first and second magnets axially aligned or with the magnets radially aligned with opposite polarities to effectively center the rotor as taught by Wyatt.

14. Claims 12 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (UK 2335242), in further view of Mendelsohn (US 2582788). Ishizuka teaches every aspect of the invention except the first, second, and third magnets being axially aligned with opposite polarities. Mendelsohn teaches a shafts supported by axially aligned magnets with opposite polarities. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the fan motor of Ishizuka with the axially aligned magnets because Mendelsohn teaches to provide a powerful magnetic bearing.

15. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (UK 2335242) in further view of Weilbach et al. (Weilbach) (US 5019738). Ishizuka teaches every aspect of the invention except the first, second, and third magnets being axially aligned with identical polarities. Weilbach teaches a shafts supported by axially aligned magnets with identical polarities to provide good stiffness at high speeds. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the fan motor of Ishizuka with the axially aligned magnets being repulsive to provide a strong bearing even at high speeds as taught by Weilbach.

Art Unit: 2834

16. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishizuka (UK 2335242) and Nakamura et al. (Nakamura)(JP 2000/078796), in further view of Mehta et al. (Mehta)(US 5883449). Ishizuka and Nakamura teach every aspect of the invention except the bearing being a sleeve bearing. Nakamura disclose the bearings as any conventional bearings (black box). Mehta teaches that sleeve and ball bearings are used in fan motors. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the motor of Ishizuka and Nakamura with a sleeve bearing to help support the rotor as suggested by Nakamura and Mehta.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl I.E. Tamai whose telephone number is (571) 272 - 2036. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Darren Schuberg, can be reached at (571) 272 - 2044. The facsimile number for the Group is (703) 872 - 9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Karl I Tamai
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
January 20, 2005
US refs. : 4471331 2582788 5019738 5883449

KARL TAMAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
